In the Claims:

1   1.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date for a product~~ comprising ~~the steps of~~:
3   defining a warranty start event <u>for a product</u>;
4   generating a timestamp ~~with~~ <u>for</u> the product after detection of the
5   occurrence of said warranty start event;
6   storing said timestamp in a memory; and
7   wherein the product is for producing output, and wherein said
8   warranty start event comprises production of a specified quantity of the output.

1   2.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date for a product~~ as defined by claim 1 further comprising the step of reading
3   said timestamp from said memory to determine ~~the~~ <u>a</u> warranty start date.

1   3.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 1 wherein said memory is internal to the product.

1   4.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 1 wherein said step of generating a timestamp
3   comprises obtaining said timestamp from ~~an internal~~ <u>a</u> clock <u>internal to the</u>
4   <u>product</u>.

1   5.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 1 wherein the product is connected to a data network,
3   and wherein said step of generating a timestamp comprises obtaining said
4   timestamp over the network <u>using the product</u>.

1   6.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 1 wherein the product is connected to a data network,
3   and wherein said memory is remotely located from the product and is accessible
4   over the network.

1   7.   [Canceled].

1   8.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 1 wherein the product is for connection to a data
3   network, and wherein said step of generating a timestamp comprises obtaining a
4   timestamp over the <u>data</u> network.

1   9.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 8 wherein said step of obtaining a timestamp over the
3   network comprises connecting to a time server over the network, querying said
4   time server with a network time protocol query for a time value, and obtaining a
5   time value from said time server in a network time protocol.

1   10.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 1 wherein said step of storing said timestamp in said
3   memory further comprises encrypting said timestamp.

1   11.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 10 wherein the method further comprises the step of
3   outputting said encrypted timestamp from the product.

1   12.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date for a product~~ as defined by claim 1 wherein the method further comprises
3   the step of continuously searching for occurrence of said warranty start event <u>to</u>
4   <u>detect the occurrence of said warranty start event</u>.

1   13.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~
2   ~~date for a computer peripheral, the peripheral for connection to a network and~~
3   ~~for producing output, the method~~ comprising the steps of:
4   defining a warranty start event <u>for a printer</u> comprising production
5   of a specified amount of output;
6   searching for occurrence of said warranty start event;
7   generating a timestamp ~~with the product~~ <u>for the printer</u> after

8   detection of the occurrence of said warranty start event, said generation of a

9   timestamp comprising querying a timeserver connected to ~~the~~ a network for a

10   time value;

11   encrypting said timestamp; storing said encrypted timestamp in a

12   non-volatile memory in the ~~product~~ printer; and,

13   outputting said encrypted timestamp from the ~~product~~ printer.

1   14.   [Currently Amended]   A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~

2   ~~date~~ as defined by claim 13 wherein the ~~computer peripheral product~~ printer is

3   for producing documents, and wherein:

4   said warranty start event comprises production of a specified

5   number of documents; and,

6   said encrypted timestamp can be retrieved from said memory and

7   output on a product test page.

1   15.   [Currently Amended]   A computer program product ~~for causing a~~

2   ~~product to determine a warranty start date for the product, the computer~~

3   ~~program product~~ comprising computer readable instructions embedded in a

4   computer readable medium, the instructions when executed by ~~the~~ a product

5   causing the product to:

6   retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory;

7   generate a timestamp ~~with the~~ for the product after detection of

8   the occurrence of ~~said~~ a warranty start event for the product;

9   store said timestamp in a memory;

10   output said timestamp from said memory when prompted to

11   determine ~~the~~ a warranty start date; and

12   wherein the product comprises a product for connection to a

13   network, and wherein causing the product to generate a timestamp comprises

14   causing the product to obtain a current time value over the network.

1   16.   [Canceled].

1   17.   [Previously Presented] A computer program product as defined by
2   claim 15 wherein causing the product to obtain said current time value
3   comprises causing the product to query a time server over the network for a
4   current time value in a standard protocol.

1   18.   [Previously Presented] A computer program product as defined by
2   claim 15 wherein the product is connected to the network and wherein causing
3   the product to store said time stamp in a memory comprises causing the product
4   to store said timestamp in a memory remote from the product via the network.

1   19.   [Original] A computer program product as defined by claim 15
2   wherein the product is for producing units of output, and wherein said warranty
3   start event comprises production of a specified number of units of output.

1   20.   [Original] A computer program product as defined by claim 15
2   wherein the product is a document production apparatus for producing
3   documents, wherein the computer program further causes the product to
4   encrypt said timestamp, and wherein causing the product to output said
5   timestamp comprises causing the product to output a diagnostic test document
6   when prompted, at least a portion of said diagnostic test page comprising said
7   encrypted timestamp.

1   21.   [Currently Amended] A computer program product ~~for causing a~~
2   ~~computer peripheral to determine a warranty start date for the peripheral, the~~
3   ~~peripheral for producing documents and for connection to a network, the~~
4   ~~computer program product~~ comprising computer readable instructions embedded
5   in a computer readable medium, the instructions when executed by ~~the~~ <u>a</u>
6   peripheral causing the peripheral to:
7   retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory,
8   said warranty start event definition comprising production of a specified
9   cumulative number of documents <u>by the peripheral</u>, said memory internal to the
10   peripheral;
11   search for occurrence of said warranty start event;

12   obtain a timestamp over the network after detection of the

13   occurrence of ~~said~~ a warranty start event <u>for the peripheral</u> by querying of a

14   time server;

15   encrypt said timestamp;

16   store said encrypted timestamp in said memory; and,

17   output said encrypted timestamp on a diagnostic document from

18   said memory when prompted to determine ~~said~~ a warranty start date <u>for the</u>

19   <u>peripheral</u>.

1   22.   [Currently Amended] A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~

2   ~~date for a product~~ comprising the steps of:

3   defining a warranty start event <u>for a product</u>;

4   generating a timestamp ~~with~~ <u>for</u> the product after detection of the

5   occurrence of said warranty start event;

6   storing said timestamp in a memory; and

7   wherein the product is connected to a data network, and wherein

8   said step of generating a timestamp comprises obtaining said timestamp over

9   the network.

1   23.   [Currently Amended] A method ~~for determining a warranty start~~

2   ~~date for a product~~ comprising the steps of:

3   defining a warranty start event <u>for a product</u>;

4   generating a timestamp ~~with~~ <u>using</u> the product after detection of

5   the occurrence of said warranty start event;

6   storing said timestamp in a memory; and

7   wherein the product is connected to a data network, and wherein

8   said memory is remotely located from the product and is accessible over the

9   network.

1   24.   [Currently Amended] A computer program product ~~for causing a~~

2   ~~product to determine a warranty start date for the product, the computer~~

3   ~~program product~~ comprising computer readable instructions embedded in a

4   computer readable medium, the instructions when executed by ~~the~~ a product

5   causing the product to:

6   retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory;

7   generate a timestamp ~~with the~~ for the product after detection of

8   the occurrence of ~~said~~ a warranty start event for the product;

9   store said timestamp in a memory;

10   output said timestamp from said memory when prompted to

11   determine ~~the~~ a warranty start date; and

12   wherein the product is connected to a network and wherein

13   causing the product to store said time stamp in a memory comprises causing the

14   product to store said timestamp in a memory remote from the product via the

15   network.

1   25.   [Currently Amended]   A computer program product ~~for causing a~~

2   ~~product to determine a warranty start date for the product, the computer~~

3   ~~program product~~ comprising computer readable instructions embedded in a

4   computer readable medium, the instructions when executed by ~~the~~ a product

5   causing the product to:

6   retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory;

7   generate a timestamp ~~with the~~ for the product after detection of

8   the occurrence of ~~said~~ a warranty start event for the product;

9   store said timestamp in a memory;

10   output said timestamp from said memory when prompted to

11   determine ~~the~~ a warranty start date; and

12   wherein the product is for producing units of output, and wherein

13   said warranty start event comprises production of a specified number of units of

14   output.

1   26.   [Currently Amended]   A computer program product ~~for causing a~~

2   ~~product to determine a warranty start date for the product, the computer~~

3   ~~program product~~ comprising computer readable instructions embedded in a

4   computer readable medium, the instructions when executed by ~~the~~ a product

5   causing the product to:

6   retrieve a stored warranty start event definition from a memory;

7   generate a timestamp ~~with the~~ <u>for the</u> product after detection of

8   the occurrence of ~~said~~ <u>a</u> warranty start event <u>for the product</u>;

9   store said timestamp in a memory;

10   output said timestamp from said memory when prompted to

11   determine ~~the~~ <u>a</u> warranty start date; and

12   wherein the product is a document production apparatus for

13   producing documents, wherein the computer program further causes the product

14   to encrypt said timestamp, and wherein causing the product to output said

15   timestamp comprises causing the product to output a diagnostic test document

16   when prompted, at least a portion of said diagnostic test page comprising said

17   encrypted timestamp.

1   27.   [New] A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the defining

2   comprises defining the warranty start event comprising an event other than a

3   first use of the product.

1   28.   [New] A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the defining

2   comprises defining the warranty start event comprising a specified number of

3   documents printed by the product.

1   29.   [New] A method as defined by claim 28 wherein the specified

2   number of pages is nonzero.

1   30.   [New] A method as defined by claim 28 wherein the specified

2   number of pages is greater than one.

1   31.   [New] A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the generating the

2   timestamp comprises generating the timestamp using the product.

1   32.   [New] A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the generating the

2   timestamp determines the warranty start date for the product comprising the

3   date of the timestamp.

1   33.   [New]   A method as defined by claim 1 further comprising

2   detecting the occurrence of said warranty start event.

1   34.   [New]   A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the product is

2   configured to perform a function, and the warranty start event comprises

3   performance of a specified quantifiable amount of the function by the product.